



August 2014

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## Greetings from New Milford

*By Mike Wilcox, District Governor - 23B*

Standing with 755 Governor Elects at our International Convention in Toronto gave us all a sense of how Lions connect us with the world.

Globally, we passed a milestone this year: We now have 1,360,000 Lions in 210 countries. Locally, our last District Governor from New Milford (Curt Fitch, 1988-1989) told me that his tour of duty felt like yesterday. For me, the office of District Governor feels very much like today.

What's in store for us this year? First, I need your help in growing our membership back up over the 2000 mark. If every club focuses on growing by one member and if we add two new club branches (15 members each), we will reach our goal.

I will send a thank you note to each new member and also to his or her sponsor. The sponsor will also get a "Just Ask" button, and our new International President, Joe Preston (who attended our Mid-Winter



District 23B DG Mike Wilcox (C) with District 23C DG Nanette Burdick (L) and District 23A DG Kathy Patterson (R)

conference in February!), will also send an email to both.

Immediate Past District Governor Dan DiVirgilio asked each one of us to tell a story about how someone was "Touched By a Lion." Continue telling those stories. They are the lifeblood of our organization. They are the reason we do what we do. They are the reason why new members come to our clubs.

Keep talking about how your club helped someone. Keep reminding the public how your club

made a difference in your community. Keep showing the public how we continue to make our communities better places to live.

If we do that, then it will be easy for "Each One to Reach One." That's my slogan for the year. And most importantly, "Just Ask" people if they might be interested in Lions. So many great prospective members are waiting in our communities. They need to serve!

Let's have a great year!

DG Mike

## Connecting Lions Clubs with our District

By DG Mike Wilcox

How do our clubs connect with our district? Sometimes well. Sometimes not so well. This isn't news to anyone.

Several of our clubs see themselves as local service organizations that are loosely affiliated with Lions International. Other clubs see the benefit of connecting with their brother and sister clubs via their zone, district and international association.

Of course, you know where I stand.

For many years, members of your district cabinet have tried to

strengthen our connections with the 52 clubs in our district. Last year, IPDG Dan DiVirgilio tried to recast our 8 zones into 5 'super zones,' each powered by a team composed of a zone chair, several assistants and guiding Lions. Our goal was to help clubs operate more smoothly, to spread the word about Lions, and ultimately to serve more people.

Our hope was: if Lions serve more people, then Lions will continue to grow. I think we all rallied around that hope. I also think that changes of this magnitude take time. Eventually, we will form the teams that Dan and other members of the

cabinet envisioned for our district.

So we're back to 8 zones in 2014-2015.

In the meanwhile, try attending a zone or district meeting. Think about helping your zone chair or the cabinet chairs for eye screenings, publicity, Lion Around Connecticut, or CRIS radio – there are so many great things to do.

We are all in this together. We should find ways to connect with each other, to help each other, and to become better Lions. Isn't that what Lions are all about?

## Thomaston Lions Club

The Thomaston Lions Club had a great year and volunteered at many activities. We started the year off by having our annual "Christmas in July Food Drive" for our Local food pantry with the help of Adam's IGA.

Throughout June, July, and August, we set up a table and sell water and snacks for the *Concerts on the Green* with the help of the Leos Club. In August, we helped at the Terryville Fair.

In September, we worked at the Police Explorer's Thomaston Car Show with a bake sale. In October, we had the drawing for our Second Annual Raffle, and had our Charter Dinner for the Leos club with the induction of ten members. In November, we handed out over 500 cups of Clam Chowder at "Light up Thomaston."

For Christmas, we adopted a local family of five, and provided them with their Christmas Dinner,

presents, and stockings, with many donations coming from Lion members. Some Lions also helped with parking at the Railroad Station for the Santa Train.

In February, we did our annual "Love Your Neighbor" Food Drive, along with a bake sale.

March was our 4th annual Corned Beef Dinner to raise money for our Scholarship Fund.

In May, we helped the Avon club with "Feed the Hungry," along with the Leos Club, and cooked Hot Dogs at Thomaston's ARTZFEST.

We handed in 500 pairs of Eye Glasses to the District Governor's breakfast, and honored our Lion of The Year Darlene Brasche who was instrumental in getting our Leos Club up and running.

In June, we handed out four Scholarships for a total of \$1600.

We are coming up on our 5th anniversary this coming October and we look forward to having a "Fall Ball" in November to celebrate this milestone.

At our awards night David Hoebel received perfect attendance award.

Thomaston Lions are participating in, "Concert on the Green" on Monday evenings through the summer selling snack items. A portion of the proceeds is given back to The Fine Arts Connection of Thomaston who is the program presenters.

On July 19 we are doing a Christmas in July Food Drive in front of the Adams IGA to benefit the Thomaston Pantry.

We anticipate another great year reaching out to our Community!

[www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/thomastonct](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/thomastonct)

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"  
— Helen Keller

# Global Leadership Team End-of-Year Report

By GLT Lion Everett “Ev” Lyons

We presented a number of training opportunities during Lions Year 2013-2014. Most were targeted to special groups: club officers, Guiding Lions, Zone Chairs, and Leo Liaisons. We also created a District 23B Lions University to offer leadership training to “the average Lion” online. Mid-Winter provided an opportunity to talk about supporting new Lions.

**Officers Training** was held on May 10 at the ITBD Center in New Britain. Fifty-one Lion officers participated in the traditional half-day training program. Seminars were provided for club presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and membership chairs.

A new seminar, directed toward defining the role of Leo Liaisons and strengthening their leadership skills was added this year.

While this year’s attendance was low for this offering, I would recommend that the seminar remain in place for next year’s program.

Many thanks are due to our

presenters for the day as well as to several of the zone chairs who really “beat the bushes” in their respective zones to encourage club attendance.

**District 23B Lions University** participation netted 12 “graduates” of the online program. The goal of the program was to introduce Lions to the online resources of LCI as well as create a basic program leading to improved leadership capacity within the district. Incoming District Governor Mike has already indicated that this program will continue through his term as district governor. It is probably the most convenient way to gain leadership skills literally in the comfort of one’s home. Congratulations to the Thomaston Lions who had the greatest number of graduates in the “Class of 2014.”

**Guiding Lion Training** was conducted early in the autumn of 2013, and we had several District 23B Lions as well as two Lions from our neighboring districts attending. Leo Liaisons were invited to attend as well as Lions interested in

assisting their fellow clubs within the district. The course resulted in 10 new Guiding Lions in 23B ready to render assistance as needed. Congratulations to the Terryville Lions who had the largest contingent attending the course.

**Zone Chair Training** was a half-day experience for the 2013-2014 zone chairs. The training not only covered the traditional topics in the LCI curriculum, but also emphasized the development of club officers and clubs. Simulations provided the incoming chairs to test their coaching and motivational skills with hypothetical scenarios.

**Mid-Winter Convention** provided an opportunity to partner with PDG Norm Messier to offer a workshop on supporting Lions through effective sponsor and mentor roles. A number of multiple district Lions were in attendance and we created a PowerPoint presentation that can be used in a variety of venues. I have already used it with my own club to promote effective membership activities.

## Bethlehem Lions Club

On February 15, the Bethlehem Lions Club put on its 40th Annual Sweetheart’s Ball.

This was a gala dinner dance with a prime rib, seafood, vegetarian dinner followed by dancing to the live music of “The Goods.”

Seventy couples attended the ball, and enjoyed a wonderful dinner

cooked and served by members of the club.

The event, as usual, was very well received and raised over \$6000 that was used for the fuel bank, low vision centers, and a variety of other projects, including four one thousand dollar scholarships for graduating seniors from the Region 14 high school. Lions from

Woodbury and Watertown attended as well.

Next year the 41st ball will be held on the first Saturday falling closest to Valentine’s day, Feb 14. All Lions are invited to attend.

Details will be available on our web site.

[www.e-clubhouse.org/bethlehemct](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/bethlehemct)

When you start out in a team, you have to get the teamwork going and then you get something back.  
—Michael Schumacher

## Eye Screenings – A New Year Ahead!

By CLERF Chair Lion Marty Sandshaw and LEHP Chair Lion Dan Utti

More than 60% of the clubs in District 23B have now conducted at least one pediatric eye screening – a marked increase from a year ago, and we're looking for a similar increase in the year ahead.

We made progress in Hartford, Torrington, New Britain and Bristol as well as the larger suburbs of Bloomfield, Avon, and Simsbury. We also screened children in Berlin, Burlington, Canton, Enfield, East Windsor, Granby, Harwinton,

Norfolk, South Windsor, Wethersfield, Windsor Locks, Winsted, and Woodbury.

District-wide results are listed in the table below:

Event	Total	Referred	Referral Rate
<b>Adult Eye Screenings</b>	931	100	10.7%
<b>Pediatric Eye Screenings</b>	3443	391	11.4%

We continue with Adult Vision Screening programs at Veterans, Homeless, Senior Centers, Church Health functions, as well as Special Olympics.

For pediatric eye screenings, our strategy of partnering with special programs like Head Start, CREC and CRT funded preschools has yielded good progress. The Education Connection is so enthusiastic about the program, that they would like to continue make use of Lion volunteers; but have purchased their own PediaVision SPOT, so they can screen their schools in Winsted, Torrington, Litchfield, Plymouth and New Milford.

Three Connecticut Fairs have scheduled screenings this fall, a little disappointing but we will have a presence at these fairs. We are now

scheduling screenings for the next school year with a few weeks already fully booked.

Special thanks to the efforts of Lion Bob Clark, Lion Phil Dzumak and PCC Alan Daninhirsch. In Hartford, Lion Winston Barnaby and the Hartford West Indian Lions Club sought volunteers and helped at every turn. While this is a slow-going effort, we have a presence in Hartford now.

In Hartford's inner-city schools, we tried to improve our previous experience with getting parents to sign consent forms. As a test, we set up screenings at Sand and Clark this month, but included a plan to perform a 'makeup screening' to pick up a few more children. At both schools, we picked up the absentees as well as additional children to screen with new consent

forms that were signed. To my surprise, the nurse at Clark took the time to travel to see a parent in the neighborhood to obtain the signature of a specific child that she wanted included in the screening. Earlier in December, we screened children at Naylor School, and in February, screened children at Betances School.

We gained a significant amount of confidence in using the new Canon CR-1 Retina Image camera this year. But the same concerns about training Lions to use the camera will continue. It is difficult to transport; and difficult to operate. We had hopes that the new camera would be easier to use; and Lions could learn quickly.

We are setting up our 2014-15 schedule. Confirmed events are posted at the District 23-B website.

[www.e-district.org/sites/23b/page-12.php](http://www.e-district.org/sites/23b/page-12.php)

## Thanks...from Kathy Randall

My heartfelt thanks to all the Lions in 23-B and Multiple District 23 that sent me cards and emails to express condolences on the recent passing of my Mother.

I sincerely appreciate your support and kind sentiments. I received many sincere messages that have helped in the grieving process. Any financial contributions I personally

received have been sent to Camp Asbury on Silver Lake in western New York and will go towards a Memorial Garden on the camp grounds. My Mom would have enjoyed a garden as she managed the camp kitchen for 19 years. My Dad is appreciative that others may add to the garden, and as my family visits for family reunions, we can have a space to reflect about my

mother's life and how she touched so many. Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,  
Lion Kathy Randall





## Leo Club Report

by *Blanche Sewell, Leo Clubs Team Chair*

We held a "World Relay Lunch" as suggested by our International President, at the Winsted Senior Center. We paid for 33 seniors' lunch and collected over 100 canned goods for the local soup Kitchen. We had a few interested in joining Lions and will follow through. We had good newspaper coverage that day with pictures and articles in the local papers.

April 17, Thursday I attended the workshop held at the Oasis in Plainville.

April 27, Sunday I attended the Governor's Breakfast for zones 3 and 4 held at Maneeley's. Our 1st Vice District Governor Mike Wilcox conducted the event. The Outstanding Leos were presented with certificates by the Liaison or Advisors that sponsored them. They were Bloomfield Leo Gabriela O'Brien, East Windsor Leo Allison Rodriguez, Newington Leo Kimberly Nguyen, South Windsor Leo Cameron Santos and Windsor Locks Leos Laura Martin and Jon Dodge.

May 10 Saturday Attended the Annual officers training workshop at ITBD. With DG Dan we conducted a seminar for Leo Liaison's, defining

their role as a Leo Liaison. A PowerPoint presentation was shown and handouts were given. We had discussions and answered questions. It was a small group of 4. We need to do better PR for this by letting them know earlier.

May 16 attended the Low Vision Awards dinner at Nuchie's.

May 17 I inducted 18 new members into the Barkhamsted Lions and installed their incoming officers.

May 18 Attended the Governor's Breakfast for Zones 1,2 and 5. The Outstanding Leos were presented with certificates. They were: Leos Quinn Holmes of Avon Middle School, Nate Kopler from Torrington High School, Grace Jennetta from Lewis S. Mills Humanitarian High School Leo Club, and Kristen Mazzani from Terryville High School.

May 22 Thursday, Together First VDG Mike and I inducted the new members and installed the officers of "The Green Wave" High School Leo Club in New Milford.

May 26, With help from the Gilbert School Leo's conducted a Red Cross Drive in Winsted.

May 29 With Liaison Ken Faulker attending and bringing the Leo Charter to Suffield High School, I inducted and installed their new members and officers. They are paying their own Leo levy fees.

June 11, Wednesday attended the Sports Banquet at Gilbert School. Two Leos were given Scholarships from the local Winsted Lions.

June 13 - I was invited to the Terryville Lions meeting, and they allowed me to present Leo President Kristen Mazzani with their 10-year patch.

On June 21 Saturday I will be attending District Governor Dan's testimonial.

On June 26 I will be inducting new members and installing the officers of the Hartland Lions. I have three Leo Clubs that are partnering with UCONN in collecting articles for migrant workers. This was a project we had at the Mid-Winter and these Clubs want to continue this project. Wonderful....

Thanks to all the Lions Clubs that have sponsored Leo Clubs. Thank you to DG Dan for allowing me to be part of his Cabinet this year.

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## Terryville Lions Club

The Terryville Lions have a very limited meeting schedule during the Summer. The club works on the preparations for the Terryville Country Fair. The dates this year are August 22,23,24. New this year

at the fair will be a pediatric eye screening booth in the Home and Garden Building. Screenings will be available between the hours of 10Am and 3Pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The Waterbury Republican-American ran article showing what lions do best in their community: HELPING. The article shows PDG Len Johnson volunteering his time to help install a skate park in town.

[www.terryvillelions.org](http://www.terryvillelions.org)

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[ "It takes two flints to make a fire."  
— Louisa May Alcott ]

## New Milford Lions Club

Lion President Bill Deak, Lions Tammy Deak and Cliff Ricci attended the 97th International Convention in Toronto to support our Lion, Mike Wilcox who was officially sworn in as District Governor on Tuesday, July 8th! On Saturday, we along with eighty other

Lions from Connecticut marched in the Parade of Nations (what a fascinating event to see!)

Upcoming Events: Village Fair Days: July 25 & 26: New this year we will be selling Gourmet Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Fried

Onion Rings; August 6th: Jack Buczek Memorial Golf Tournament; August 16th: Dragon Boat Races: cooking event; Bridgewater Fair; Pediatric Eye Screening; September 7th: Senior Picnic and September 20th; Please come to our 6th Annual Country Fair & Car Show!!

[www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/newmilfordct/](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/newmilfordct/)

## Barkhamsted Lions Club

On May 28th, The Barkhamsted Lions presented its two Lattizori Family Scholarships at the NCCC awards night. The scholarship recipients were a graduating senior from Northwestern Regional #7, and a student who is presently attending NCCC.

With many young and energetic new members working a lot of hours, the Barkhamsted Lions were able to

have a very successful Tag Sale on June 7th. Many folks left quite pleased with great buys on quality items.

Postponed until July 5th due to the weather, we sponsored our annual Barkhamsted 4th of July Parade. One day late, but still plenty to celebrate. As usual, the parade was well attended and a big hit. The famous Star Band played and a

restored 1939 Farmall F-20, pulling our vintage manure spreader, were a few of the crowd pleasers. The manure spreader has a 40-year parade history of spreading good will for the Lions. The Lions are selling nifty "Barkhamsted is Here" tee shirts. They're only \$10.00 and you don't need to live in Barkhamsted to wear one!

[www.barkhamstedct.lionwap.org/](http://www.barkhamstedct.lionwap.org/)



**East Hartford Lions Club** Treasurer, James Facer, is waiting for the water to boil to cook the spaghetti for the club's Annual Pasta Supper. The event netted almost \$800.00 for the East Hartford Lions Club Charities.



**THE WOODBURY LIONS CLUB  
PRESENTS ITS 24TH ANNUAL**



**HAUNTED HAYRIDE AND HAUNTED BARN  
OCTOBER 17, 18, 24, 25**

**Mitchell School, 14 School Street, Woodbury, CT**

**\$12 ADULTS, \$6 CHILDREN (UNDER 10)**

**Children's Hayride, October 18, 1 PM  
(Rain Date - October 25)  
\$3 Children, \$4 Adults  
All children will receive a free pumpkin**

**Visit [www.woodburyclions.org](http://www.woodburyclions.org) for more information**

## New Design, Same Spirit

You may notice that the *District 23B Spirit* now looks a bit different.

With a new year, and new people on staff, we're changing the software we use to lay out the newsletter to make it easier for everyone to make changes. We've also changed our printer, so you will see an improvement in quality.

What we need are a lot of contributions—club news, photographs, and, especially ads.

We will attempt to put all submissions into each issue, but, occasionally, we'll run out of room. Our new motto at the District 23B Spirit is, "*All the news that fits, we print!*"

*District 23B Spirit Staff*

"Only those who attempt the absurd can achieve the impossible."  
- Albert Einstein

## It's Happening in Torrington

### TORRINGTON LIONS 37TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

PRIZES AND FUN GALORE!

**MONDAY, AUG. 18, 2014**

Greenwoods Country Club,  
300 Tarringford St, Winsted, Ct

\$115 entry fee includes:

Green Fees, Cart, Free Cookout Lunch,  
and Buffet Dinner

(No golf-buffet only cost is \$25.00 per person)

Lunch 11:00am to 12:30pm

For information, call

Norm Nejaime 860-482-3321

Win a new HYUNDAI ELANTRA for a  
HOLE IN ONE on the THIRD HOLE.



### LABOR DAY WEEKEND

**AUG 30, 31 AND SEPT 1**

GOSHEN FAIR GROUNDS - GOSHEN

COME SEE US for RIB EYE SANDWICHES & CORN

### TORRINGTON LIONS CLUB 8th ANNUAL CAR SHOW

**CARS AND MOTORCYCLES - \$10.00**

NO CUT OFF DATE

MUSIC \* FOOD \* 50/50 RAFFLE

**FRIDAY-SEPT. 12, 2014**

(RAINDATE - SEPT. 19, 2014)

MAIN STREET-TORRINGTON

FOR INFORMATION, CALL JOHN 860- 921-3298

### Craft Fair 2ND ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW

**OCTOBER 11, 2014**

**8:00 am to 2:00pm**

TORRINGTON ARMORY  
153 SOUTH MAIN ST.



## VENDORS WANTED

Please contact - Kiki Tucker  
kiki73055@hotmail.com (subject: Craft Fair)  
or call 860-489-8971 (leave msg if no answer)



## Woodbury Lions Club

Nine local high school students received \$20,000 in scholarships from the Woodbury Lions Club in May. They will join the Lions on August 5 at a dinner in their honor.

The Woodbury Lions Club's 36th Annual Car Show, held on June 8, was a huge success this year. With over 300 cars, and roughly 800 spectators, the club netted over \$10,000 for our scholarship fund.

Our annual award night, held on June 3, recognized four graduating Leo members who are off to college, and the two Leo advisors at the schools. Lion Bill Hubert received a key for bringing in two new members to the club. Eleven members received service awards, including a 40-year award to Lion Lou DeLuca, and a 60-year award to Lion Ed Manzi. Lions Chet Gage, John Millium, and Rowland Travis received Loyal Shepherd Fellow awards. Lion Bill Hubert also received a Knight of the Blind award, and we named Lion George Assenza as our club's Lion of the Year.

The bittersweet moment of the evening was the presentation of the

Melvin Jones Award to the family of Lion John Deschino. Lion John, with fifty-nine years of service to the Woodbury Lions, knew he would receive the honor, but passed away a few weeks before awards night. Accepting the award were his son, Lion Ken Deschino, Ken's wife, Debbie, and Ken's sister, Beverly. Lion John also received an Ambassador of Sight award in March.



Lion Ken Deschino (seated) with his wife Debbie (L), and his sister Beverly (R) accepting the Melvin Jones award for the late Lion John Deschino

We also used our Awards night to reconnect with past members who left the club. Six ex-Lions attended and we hope that they decide to become Lions again.

On July 15, the Woodbury Lions hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Hollow Park in Woodbury. Over eighty people attended and socialized with the club, who recognized the efforts these people make on our behalf throughout the year.

We will have our second military band concert, this time, by the 102nd Army Band, on July 25 at Hollow Park. While the concert is free, we asked attendees to bring non-perishable food items to help restock the Woodbury Food Bank, which is dangerously low. We collected eight full bins of food.

Starting in August, we start gearing up for our Haunted Hayride that takes place October 17, 18, 24, and 25. We welcome any Lion who wants to volunteer in helping to make this a magical event. Contact the club through our email, [woodburyclions@gmail.com](mailto:woodburyclions@gmail.com).

[www.woodburyclions.org](http://www.woodburyclions.org)

## What Is A CCTV Reader?



A typical CCTV Reader

One of the products available for those with low vision is a Closed Circuit Television Reading System, also known as an Electronic Magnification Reading System. It's a

video camera, mounted on a stand, that projects an enlarged image of what it sees to a television or video screen. It can also alter the brightness or contrast of the viewed image. Color versions can change black and white text to other colors to help prevent eyestrain and fatigue.

The use of CCTV readers can assist people with low vision perform tasks such as reading labels on prescription bottles, look at picture albums, read newspapers and magazines, and assist in writing checks and letters. They can help people who can no longer read regular-sized newsprint with glasses or hand-held magnifiers.

The price for readers of this type range from \$1000 to \$4000, depending on the size and type of monitor. The less expensive models allow you to connect to your own monitor or television; the more expensive ones include the monitor, some up to 24" wide. There are also apps for smartphones and tablets that can work for some people, but they lack many of the features that the desktop units provide.

Several Lions Clubs have CCTV Reader lending programs, to close the gap between when a person with low vision needs a reader, to when they acquire one of their own. If there's not a program in your town, why not start one?



## Low Vision Product Available

Contributed by Lion Kiki Tucker

In case you did not know there is a talking pill reminder available at Walgreens and other pharmacies. It is the size of the top of a pill bottle, fitting right on top of the cap with a sticky tab. The talking pill reminder has a timer button, an audio button and a display screen. Timer button has two raised dots and is slightly larger than the audio button. The audio button is smaller than the timer button and has one raised dot. It is easy for a person with or without sight. The instructions are printed in braille and in written English. It is an item Walgreens offers **FREE (usually 9.99-one per**

**person)** to blind or visually impaired people with the criteria of the Americans with Disability Act. The person will be required to sign a voucher at the pharmacy window and they will have to provide a date of birth and a phone number. The pharmacist will explain how to operate and program it. Also good to know Walgreens and most pharmacies offer two types of pill bottles for your prescriptions. One with child proof top and the other just plain screw type for people with no children at home and may have arthritis—just ask the pharmacy to NOT use the child proof bottles.



*Have you seen a new product to help those with low vision? Did you pick up a trick to make simple tasks easier for the vision impaired? Write a brief summary and send it to the District 23B Spirit to share with everyone!*

### Kiki's Club Spotlight

By Lion Kiki Tucker



The New Milford Club was chartered in 1929. This year the club will be celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are currently 56 members. Their newest member is Raymond Colaluca. He moved here to be close to his family and ho volunteer. The longest member is David Murphy—fifty years! They have two dinner meetings a month at the VFW and one board meeting. Dynamic is the word to describe their club. Two proudest things they do: scholarship night—\$8,000 to a high school senior, and their pediatric eye screenings.

They just inducted 46 new Leos, and are working on another branch at the High School level. Their largest fundraiser is the Country Fair

and Car Show held in September at Harrybrooke Park. This is the sixth year, and they will be having a raffle for 2014 Chevy Spark. Enjoy the fun and visit them.

If anyone wants to spotlight their club or a person(s) in their club please e mail me at kiki73055@hotmail.com. Make it a surprise—we take for granted the people behind the Lions.

It is always nice to MSFS—**M**ake **S**omeone **F**eel **S**pecial—because they are!



### Hartland Lions Club



The Hartland Lions Club will have a booth at the 2 Left Feet Blues Festival September 13 selling pies. Apple turnovers and doughnuts.

This is one of our many fund raiser and will be held at the Carnival Grounds in East Hartland.

In October, we put on a dinner for our Senior Citizens (free to them of course).

“The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen. Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention...A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words.”

—Rachel Naomi Remen

## Winsted Lions Club

The Winsted Lions will be taking part in the Town of Winchester's Fall Foliage on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We will be distributing information about the different services Lions offer. Info about our club, Low Vision, CRIS radio, Fidelco and Service Dogs, Pediatric Eye Screenings to name a few. If anyone wants to give us info of any event you might be having, send us, or bring us, the material you wish to have handed out. We will be giving out Winsted Lions Informational Services Booklets as a service to the community. Listing emergency numbers and local town offices addresses and e mails, phone numbers.

We will be starting our Pediatric eye screening's in October at our local schools.



## Lion Around Connecticut

With Lions Carol Kearns and Harry Schuh

Lion Around CT with Carol and Harry can be viewed by several thousand people in 28 communities. It airs weekly on:

- Charter in Winsted. Communities served are Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Hartland, Harwinton, New Hartford, and Winchester.
- Cablevision in Litchfield. Communities served are Cornwall, Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, and Watertown.
- Charter in New Milford. Communities served are Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Kent, Monroe, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Roxbury,

Sherman, Southbury, Trumbull, Washington, and Woodbury.

We are working with PCC Alan Daninhirsch to include Nutmeg in Farmington. This will reach the communities of Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, Farmington, New Britain and Plainville.

As of Monday, June 23, we reached a milestone in our video production - 60 shows. On July 29, our 64th show was aired. We also produced a video for DG Dan's Testimonial featuring video clips of DG Dan from past episodes of our show. This video will also be televised on cable TV.

We look forward to being on the road and also in the studio this coming year!

## Kiki's Member Spotlight

By Lion Kiki Tucker



Actually, two members.

These members have been married for 50 years. They have 6 children, five living and one little angel, grandparents to 13 and great grandparents to 3. Between the two of them they have 52 years as Lions. They are active church members and one is a minister of the Eucharist. There is not one position on the board that they have not held. One is in charge of flower delivery to our very special seniors in nursing homes without family. One is an expert at grilling steak sandwiches. They both volunteer at EVERY project.

One has taken under her wing the collection of our eyeglasses and has packed 100's of boxes. They were both instrumental in proactively pushing for eye screenings for both children and adults in our town. They have the honor of Ambassador



of Sight, Melvin Jones, Knight of the Blind, and the William K. Smith pin trader awards. One is currently the International Director of the Pin Traders.

Together they have sponsored at least 25 members throughout the years. They are both **VERY** active members in PTCCT, and always

traveling. In fact, it is tough to find them—they are always representing the Lions somewhere, be it at State or International Conventions, or pin trader meetings. They are an integral part of the Torrington Lions Club. If you have not already guessed, these two special Lions are Phil and Elaine Dzurnak.

*If anyone wants to spotlight their club or a person(s) in their club please e mail me at [kiki73055@hotmail.com](mailto:kiki73055@hotmail.com)*

## “Strengthening the Pride”

### International President Joe Preston’s Challenge to All Clubs

At the International Convention in July, International President Joe Preston announced his “Strengthen the Pride” theme and the programs that will grow our organization worldwide.

Centered on our motto, “*We Serve*,” IP Preston introduced the **Centennial Service Challenge** – a celebration of service that begins in July 2014 and continues until December 2017. There are four elements to Joe’s Centennial Service Challenge:

- *Engaging our Youth*
- *Sharing the Vision*
- *Relieving the Hunger*
- *Protecting our Environment*

Clubs that report service projects that contribute to the Global Service Action Campaigns will be eligible to receive a special banner patch.

The Family and Women’s Task Force brought forward the idea of **Responding to Children in Need**. IP Preston is asking all Lion’s Clubs to participate in a special project that not only responds to children, but especially to children in need. Whether you expand a current club project, or begin a new one, the ideas for this are endless. It can be to address literacy, hunger, abuse, or poverty wherever you find children in need. Joe urges us to invite our friends and family members to participate in these activities.

With six years of sustained growth behind us, IP Preston reiterated the need for continued growth in order to remain global leaders in humanitarian service. Toward that end, Joe announced a membership initiative called **Ask One**.

“Just imagine if each and every Lions member – all 1.35 million – asked just one person to join their club,” he posed. His goal this year is to have our Lions make more membership invitations than ever before, resulting in more new

members than we ever have had.

Joe challenged every club to develop both a **Membership Development Plan** and a **Leadership Development Plan** that are unique to each community.

To keep members motivated and to feed their altruistic spirit, Joe suggested that we strengthen our membership by inviting women and younger people to join, to adjust our club policies and procedures to make these new members feel welcome, and to offer all new members equal opportunity for advancement.

“Every club should have a leadership development plan that includes goals for new member orientation, mentoring, and participation in zone meetings and leadership training,” he stated.

New members should receive committee assignments, be encouraged to become club officers, and be trained so they can be successful Lions.

IP Preston also wants to develop new clubs and to rebuild clubs that are having problems. He suggests that we employ our **Guiding Lions** – specially-trained members – to help these efforts. The goal of Joe’s **Membership Development Strategy** is not only to grow the entire Lions organization, but to empower each club to tailor its own plans to the unique needs of their communities.

IP Preston wants each club to examine what they currently do and to implement new strategies to reenergize their membership. He urges clubs to participate in a **Community Needs Assessment** to determine how best to serve their respective communities. He would also like clubs to complete the **Club Excellence Process** to strengthen service, improve club effectiveness, and enhance membership experience.



International President Joe Preston

“LEOs are an important part of the overall strength of the pride,” he said, and called upon all clubs to include their associated LEOs club in their activities. He also encouraged any club without a LEO club to start one. “Reaching out to younger generations will benefit our organization today and throughout another century of Lions service.”

Citing the increase in the use of social media, IP Preston is encouraging clubs to embrace the new technology available. The use of Facebook, Twitter, and our own club websites help spread the word about what we are doing, and the online interfaces **Service Activity Reporting** and **MyLCI** make it easy for club officers to file their reports, find information, and share their pride. The LCI staff will create a special “hashtag” for clubs to tweet their membership recruiting successes.

Giving is a large part of Lion Pride, and IP Preston is asking every club to contribute to **LCIF**, the charitable arm of the international organization, this year. “LCIF is there to do more than one club working alone,” he said. Each club can decide the size of their gift.

The last three parts of IP Preston’s “Strengthen the Pride” initiative, are  
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## Zone 2 Report

*By Team Chair Jim Trompeter*

Overall, I felt that the level of club activities throughout the Zone was very strong. Each club conducted numerous fund raisers with proceeds going to Local, State and Lions International. I was pleased that all but 2 clubs participated in the Pediatric Eye Screening program. Next year we should have 100% participation.

Operationally and financially all clubs are sound and no one is carrying any major delinquency in payments to the District or Lions International. All clubs have their Teams duly elected for next year, and all PU 101's are in.

Membership growth was a disappointment. Through the end of May, the Zone is down 31 members, 15 from one club. I feel that for the most part this is the only area that is of concern within the clubs in Zone 2. We are still dealing with an aging membership whose capability to be active in Lions diminishes each year.

All the Presidents were cooperative, and supportive of what we tried to accomplish. I thank them for that. Additionally I want to thank Kiki for her help and support.

## Zone 3 Report

*By Team Chair Josh Cohen*

Summer is here, and clubs are doing what most residents are doing—taking time off.

The Windsor Club continues to sell popcorn at weekly concerts on the town green to raise funds for Chapter activities.

Suffield reported that they have no activities, and the remaining clubs were contacted but did not respond.

## LCIF Awards \$3.1 Million in Grants

*By Sia Dowlatshahi,  
PCC and LCIF Chair*

Thank you for your 2013-2014 contributions to LCIF. Millions of children are alive today because of LCIF. Millions of people are able to see because of LCIF. We have made a difference in many peoples' lives.

Lions' contributions enabled LCIF to approve 72 grants totaling \$3,132,842 at the June/July 2014 Board of Trustees Meeting. United States was the recipient of nearly one million dollars in grants. The following states and territories received grants from LCIF: California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington.

I am so proud to be part of the Lions Organization. I urge you to go to the Lions website and click on LCIF; then click on Our Impact to see for yourself the difference that you have made. By the way those are the stories you need to tell your new and prospective members.

My goal this year 2014-2015 is for our District to raise \$35,000 for LCIF. I need your help. I believe we can do it. Individually we can go so far; together we can "lasso the moon!"

Have a fantastic year and thank you for serving.

Lion Sia  
District LCIF Chair

## Junior Connecticut Association of the Deaf

*By June Terry*

Here is briefing of what we, the Jr. Connecticut Association of the Deaf members, have done this past year:

We mainly focused on fundraising through two separate bake sales during the school's basketball games. We earned about \$100.00, so we voted to donate to two organizations, one that supports Breast Cancer and the other that supports homeless animals.

Besides that, we learned how to run meetings efficiently through the use of by-laws, with the help of a one hour workshop. We also had a guest speaker, the current president of Jr. MAD (Minnesota School for the Deaf), come and talk with us during our last dinner together before this summer began. He shared what Jr.MAD does and we compared what works with his and our organization.

We will be losing six members, since they will be graduating in two weeks. We plan to recruit more new members this fall.

## Are You Online?

More and more information from Lions International, District 23B, and even your own club, is set out through email, Twitter, or updates to Facebook or websites. If you're not online yet, you're missing a lot of news.

If you have an email address, make sure that your club secretary has it listed correctly in the membership directory. If you don't have one, why not? You can register for a free email address at Google's Gmail, or through yahoo.com.

Don't be the last to find out! Update your email, and don't forget to check it once in a while.

"Nobody can achieve success alone."  
— Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha

## 6th Annual CT VIP Fishing Tournament

By Lion Charley Satkowski

It has been said, "If you are lucky enough to be fishing, you are lucky enough. With the help of sighted guides and volunteers, twenty-five VIPs found their way to Sage park Pond and braved an early morning chill, to participate in the 6th annual Senior VIP Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the Berlin Lions Club.

Participants represented Berlin, Bridgeport, Bristol, Clinton, Jewitt City, Middletown, Moosup, New Fairfield, New Milford, Old Saybrook, Plainville, Watertown, Waterford, and Wethersfield. You might just say this looks like a multiple district event.

Watertown resident, Stephen Mondak, finished in first place. Alexa Page, Bristol, finished in second place. Joseph Flanaagan, Old Saybrook, finished in third place. This was the first tournament for Stephen and Joseph. Alexi, the grand champion from the first Junior VIP Fishing Tournament, has placed in three other senior tournaments. All three are eligible to participate in the New England Regional and National VIP Fishing Tournament in October.

Sarah Bowman, VIST Coordinator for the VA Healthcare Services, attended the senior event. Sarah concluded, "I haven't seen my guys with such big smiles. Every year they return to West Haven with stories about the big one that got away. I want to thank the Berlin for making this happen every year. I am looking forward to returning next year."

The weather moderated a bit for the Junior VIP Fishing Tournament. Twenty-two participants represented Bloomfield, Bolton, Bristol, Colchester, Fairfield, Farmington, New Britain, Newington, South Windsor, Unionville, and Waterbury. Congratulations to our champions: 1st place Marty (Bloomfield), 2nd place Reilly (Bristol), and 3rd place Travis (Newington).



Zone 5 Team Leader Tina Rafala participating in the 6th Annual Senior VIP fishing Tournament

Martha Delaney, BESB youth coordinator, thanked the Berlin Lions for sponsoring the junior event. "Spring is a busy time in our schedule of events, but this is has become a highlight for our children and their families," she said.

Looking back to the 2014 tournaments, we reflect on comments made by some of our guests, volunteers, and participants.

- My fish were prettier this year.
- PDG Tim Hilliker said, "The Visually Impaired Fishing Tournament, celebrates visual impairment and does not treat it as a disability."
- Charlotte, upon hearing she was invited to a blind fishing tournament, jokingly asked, "Are the fish really blind, because I still have some sight?"
- I met Teresa. She told me

she was a Leo. I bet she is very pretty.

- This is so cool...just look at the fish I caught...and I did it all by myself...well, maybe with a little help!
- Bill Gaughan reminded us that Jonathan Swift once said, "Twas a brave man indeed that 'et the first oyster!"
- A Leo said, "The VIP Fishing Tournament is an amazing experience. I wish I could better put this experience into words, but it is bigger than words itself. The VIPs provide so much positive energy. It is easy to get hooked on VIP Fishing. I assure you, I will be back next year."
- I like Lion Charley. He taught me how to catch the big fish. He was very



## Pride

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through **Partnerships**, through **Rededication**, and through **Courage and Conviction**. Citing LCI's success in partnering with other groups, he encourages all clubs to work together with like-minded people, companies and organizations within their community. He also asks that we remember the legacy of service willed to us by our founder, Melvin Jones, and that we set aside January 13, his birthday, as a tribute to him. To commemorate the day, Joe suggested that Lions perform a special service project, hold a special new member induction ceremony, or simply perform a random act of kindness.

Finally, Joe says, *"a roar without conviction is just a loud noise."* He asks us all to consider our conviction, to tell the whole world who we are, and that we will never stop trying, no matter what the challenges are.

*"So, roar with conviction, Lions. Roar with courage. Roar, because we are making a difference in the world. Focus on community and humanitarian service, and STRENGTHEN THE PRIDE."*



You should have seen the one that got away

## VIP Fishing Tournament

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helpful. Too bad he is a Red Sox fan

- Thanks for a great morning and for doing this event for our friends in our N.F.B. chapter.
- I look forward to meeting all of you good folks, and can't wait to get the pole in the water; it's been over 20 years or better since I've gone fishing.
- I don't care if I catch a thing, I'm enjoying spending this time together.

We appreciate the donations we received this year from Kensington Market, Roger's Marketplace, Sam's Club, Cambridge Specialty, Dunkin Donuts, American Liberty Insurance, Big Little Bait and Tackle Shop, Plainfield Lions Club, Dr. Jerry Neuwirth, Bob and Dee Christensen, BVA CT Regional, and our growing VIP families: Dave and Pat VanLoan, Jennifer and Richard Quinto, Rudy Behrens, and Douglas and Lois Reid

We are grateful for the continued support we receive from BESB, the BVA, the Berlin Lions Club, the Rocky Hill Lions Club, the Terryville Lions, Newington Leos Club, VA Hospital of West Haven, the Federation of the Blind, Berlin Park and Recreation, and the state Department of Inland Fisheries.

I encourage you to "Get Hooked on VIP Fishing." Please invite a VIP from your community. Volunteer to serve.

Some of our VIPs have asked about fishing on Long Island Sound. To grow our tournament we need your support. Please contact me for more information on how you or your club can support these events by email: [Satkowski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Satkowski@sbcglobal.net) or 860.828.1427. Thank you

## The Art of Having Fun Events

By Leo Kimberly Nguyen

Let's be honest: Sometimes it's hard to have fun at an event you have planned. You have high demands and expectations...plans written down on paper that should translate to real life. Right?

I'm here to tell you that I've been in this situation many times. For example, my school committee planned a town-wide event for elementary kids and their families, called "Spring Fest." We spent weeks and months brainstorming and planning. Sometimes there was lag time, and we threw around ideas until we needed to solidify them.

By the time the day arrived for the event, we felt as if we were still planning! If I could, I would have made a clone of myself at every station so the activities would go exactly as we planned!

However, acceptance is one thought that I keep in mind. Another thought is *trust*. I have to accept the fact that I've done all I can do. I also have to trust that the people I'm working with, who are working at the event, will do a great job as well!

The cold, hard truth is this: No one really knows all the details about how YOU envisioned the event. They think everything is amazing already! They couldn't possibly notice that a sign was three inches off. We are all volunteers, serving our communities.

So enjoy all the hard work you've done and break into a smile. See the successes! If you're having fun, your peers will also be having fun as well. Spread the fun around to everyone, and the next time you ask for volunteers, they will say yes to your project.

Have fun!

**Errata:** In the last issue of the **District 23B Spirit**, we misspelled the word "misspelled." We regret the error.



## Marketing Corner: Lawn Signs

*By Lion Frank Longo*

Once only used by political campaigns, many clubs feel that adding lawn signs to their arsenal of advertising tools can make a difference. However, many factors will affect the effectiveness of their use. Before you make the decision to invest in lawn signs, consider the following, and see if they're right for what you're doing.

First, investigate the town's regulations for the size and positioning of lawn signs for non-political use. You may be limited to signs no more than 12"x18", which is unreadable at speeds greater than 25MPH. You may also have to get a permit to post signs on town property. Of course, always get permission before posting a sign on private property.

Place your signs where the most people will see them. This means busy roads, and areas where large numbers of pedestrians will walk past them. It does no good to place your signs in out-of-the-way areas.

Design your sign so that it's readable. Don't cram the available space with a lot of details; the name of the club, the event, and the date is actually all you need, and about all anyone driving past will see. Limit yourself to one or two contrasting colors. Also, decide if you are printing your signs on one or two sides, and plan your placement accordingly.

Lawn signs are only cost-effective in large quantities. Printing five or ten signs might cost \$15 each; the price comes down in quantities, with the price dropping to a couple of dollars each in quantities of 100 or more. Unless you have a wide area to cover, you're better off spending the money on a newspaper ad.

Consider all the factors involved before deciding on using lawn signs. There could be lawn signs in your club's future.

## District Officers

**Mike Wilcox**  
District Governor

**Steve Daigle**  
First Vice District  
Governor

**Kathy Randall**  
Second Vice District  
Governor

**Carol Kearns**  
Secretary

**Harry Schuh**  
Treasurer

**Howard Lang**  
Zone 1 Chair

**Jim Trompeter**  
Zone 2 Chair

**Haolyn Erickson**  
Zone 3 Chair

**Bob Casey**  
Zone 4 Chair

**Tina Rafala**  
Zone 5 Chair

**Winston Barnaby**  
Zone 6 Chair

**Josh Cohen**  
Zone 7 Chair

**Bob Grillo - Assistant**  
Zone 8 Chair

## DISTRICT 23B LIONS UNIVERSITY CONTINUES

*By GLT Everett "Ev" Lyons*

Again this year, any Lion in District 23B who completes the following sequence of five online courses offered through Lions Clubs International (Member Center: Click on Leadership Development: Click on Lions Learning Center) will be recognized by the district governor as graduates of the District 23B Lions University.

Last year, we recognized twelve Lions at the annual District Governor's Breakfast and they received their "diploma" as testimony of their leadership accomplishment.

### REQUIRED COURSES

- Introduction to Lions Leadership
- Setting Goals
- Public Speaking
- Conflict Resolution
- Member Motivation

Each course is approximately 60 minutes in length. You will develop your Lions profile and build a transcript through LCI as you register for each of the above courses in Lions leadership.

Transcripts must be received by April 1, 2015 to allow for processing prior to the May breakfasts.

Interested Lions are asked to contact GLT Ev Lyons for additional information.



# Every seven minutes someone in America becomes blind or visually impaired.\*

Connecticut's own Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation is blessed by its longtime friendship with Connecticut Lions. Fidelco's efforts to *Share the Vision*® with men and women who are blind, supported by Lions Clubs throughout Connecticut, honors our inextricably linked missions and partnership, and celebrates Helen Keller's challenge to all Lions to "...constitute yourselves *Knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness.*

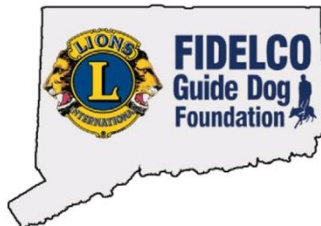
Thank you to all Connecticut Lions for your continuing support of Fidelco.

Eliot D. Russman  
CEO & Executive Director  
Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc.

[www.fidelco.org](http://www.fidelco.org)



## Share the Vision®



### Upcoming events:

NU Hartford Marathon—Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
Comedy Dinner Show—Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>  
More info at [www.fidelco.org](http://www.fidelco.org)

\*American Foundation for the Blind